



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:**

Steven J. Simmons

**Serial No.:** 10/651,665

**Filed:** August 29, 2003

**For:** YIELD BASED, IN-LINE DEFECT  
SAMPLING METHOD

**Confirmation No.:** 9328

**Examiner:** Unknown

**Group Art Unit:** 2812

**Attorney Docket No.:** 2269-3640.2US

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 16, 2004

Date

Signature

Deidra J. Pfeil

Name (Type/Print)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application on the merits, entry of the amendments as set forth herein is respectfully solicited.

**Amendments to the Specification** appear on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.